CLAIMS

1   1.   A method for controlling client access to DOD services comprising the acts of:

2   providing at least one subscription data packet including at least one client identification

3   code and at least one subscription level code to at least one client; and

4   providing at least one service having at least one associated subscription level to said at

5   least one client; wherein said at least one associated subscription level code indicates that said at

6   least one client may access said at least one service.

1   2.   A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one associated subscription

2   data packet is provided to said at least one client via a transmission medium.

        3.   A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one subscription data packet includes at least one associated warning level code, indicating a warning for display to said at least one client.

        4.   A method as recited in claim 3, wherein at least a portion of said at least one service is displayed via a visual display device, and further wherein said displayed warning obscures at least a portion of said displayed service.

        5.   A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the act of providing at least one additional subscription data packet including at least one superceding subscription level code and said client identification code, wherein said at least one superceding subscription level code

4   enables said client to access additional services.

1   6.   A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said client identification code is

2   accessible by an associated client, and wherein said client identification code enables said

3   associated client to access said at least one subscription level code.

1   7.   A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the act of accessing said

2   service.

1   8.   A method as recited in claim 7, wherein said act of accessing said service includes

2   displaying at least a portion of said service visually.

1   9.   A method as recited in claim 6, wherein said subscription level code is a binary

2   number having a plurality of bits, each bit being associated with a corresponding DOD service.

1   10.   A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one subscription level code is

2   indicative of at least one of a plurality of subscription levels of service.

1   11.   A method for controlling client access to DOD services comprising the acts of:

2   receiving at least one subscription data packet including at least one associated client

3   identification code and at least one associated subscription level code; and

          storing at least a portion of said at least one associated subscription level code in a

memory location;

          receiving at least one service having at least one associated subscription level; and

          wherein said at least one associated subscription level code corresponds to said at least

one associated subscription level, accessing at least a portion of said service.

     12.   A method as recited in claim 11, further comprising receiving said at least one

associated subscription level from an electronic program guide.

     13.   A method as recited in claim 11, wherein said subscription data packet includes

2   an associated warning level code, displaying a warning message associated with said warning

3   level code.

1   14.   A method as recited in claim 11, wherein said at least one associated subscription

2   level corresponds to at plurality of said at least one associated subscription level codes.

1   15.   A method as recited in claim 11, further comprising the act of receiving an

2   additional subscription data packet including at least one superceding subscription level code and

3   said client identification code, wherein said at least one superceding subscription level code

4   enables said client to access additional services.

1   16.   A method as recited in claim 11, wherein said at least one client identification

2   code is accessible by an associated client, and wherein said at least one client identification code

3   enables said associated client to access said subscription level code.

1   17.   A method as recited in claim 13, including displaying at least a portion of said

2   service such that at least a portion of said displayed service is obscured by said warning message.

1   18.   A method as recited in claim 11, wherein said act of accessing said at least one

2   service includes storing at least a portion of said service to said memory location.

1   19.   A method as recited in claim 11, wherein said at least one associated subscription

2   level code is a binary number having a plurality of bits, each said bit being associated with at

3   least one corresponding DOD service.

1   20.   A method as recited in claim 11, wherein said at least one subscription level code

2   is indicative of at least one of a plurality of subscription levels of service.

1   21.   A data-on-demand (DOD) broadcasting system for providing DOD services to

2   clients comprising:

        a DOD server operative to provide at least one DOD program to clients via a

4   transmission medium, said DOD server further operative to provide at least one subscription

5   level code to said clients in order to enable at least one of said clients to access said at least one

6   DOD program, wherein said at least one subscription level code is associated with said at least

7   one DOD program, and further wherein said at least one subscription level code is accessed by

8   one or more selected clients that are authorized to access said at least one DOD program

9   associated with said at least one subscription level code.

1   22.   A DOD broadcasting system as recited in claim 21, wherein said at least one

2   subscription level code is provided to clients via said transmission medium.

1   23. A DOD broadcasting system as recited in claim 22, wherein said transmission

2 medium includes electromagnetic signals in the general range of radio and television broadcasts.

1   24. A DOD broadcasting system as recited in claim 22, wherein said transmission

2 medium includes a fiber optic network.

1   25. A DOD broadcasting system as recited in claim 21, wherein said DOD server is

2 further operative to provide at least one client identity code associated with a selected client.

1   26. A DOD broadcasting system as recited in claim 21, wherein said transmission

2 medium includes the Internet.

1   27. A DOD broadcasting system as recited in claim 25, wherein said client identity

code enables an associated client to access said at least one subscription level code.

   28. A DOD broadcasting system as recited in claim 27, wherein said at least one

subscription level code enables said client to access said at least one DOD program.

   29. A DOD broadcasting system as recited in claim 25, wherein said client identity

code enables at least one associated set-top-box (STB) to access said at least one subscription

level code.

   30. A DOD broadcasting system as recited in claim 29, wherein said at least one

2 subscription level code is indicative of at least one of a plurality of subscription levels of service

3 and wherein each said DOD program is associated with at least one of said subscription levels of

4 service.

1   31. A DOD broadcasting system as recited in claim 21, wherein said at least one

2 subscription level code is provided to said at least one client as part of an information packet

3 including said at least one subscription level code.

1   32.   A DOD broadcasting system as recited in claim 31, wherein said information

2   packet further includes a client identification code for enabling an associated set-top-box (STB)

3   to access at least one DOD program associated with said subscription level code.

1   33.   A DOD broadcasting system as recited in claim 32, wherein said information

2   packet further includes a warning level indicative of at least one client account status.

1   34.   A DOD broadcasting system as recited in claim 33, wherein said associated set-

2   top-box (STB) displays a graphic representation of said warning level to said client.

1   35.   A DOD broadcasting system as recited in claim 34, wherein said at least one

2   DOD program is displayed to said client as a DOD program display.

1   36.   A DOD broadcasting system as recited in claim 15, wherein said graphic

2   representation of said warning level prevents at least a portion of said DOD program display

3   from being viewed by said client.

1   37.   A set-top-box (STB) for receiving data-on-demand comprising:

2   a databus;

3   a first communication device suitable for coupling to a digital broadcast communications

4   medium, said first communication device operable to receive digital broadcast data;

5   memory bi-directionally coupled to said databus, said memory including computer

6   executable instructions for:

7   a)   reading at least a portion of said digital broadcast data, said digital

8   broadcast data including a client identification code associated with said client and a

9   subscription access level;

10   b)   determining whether said client identification code included in said data is

11   associated with said client; and

12   c)   when said client identification code included in said data is determined to

13   be associated with said client, implementing said subscription access level, wherein said

14   implemented subscription access level enables said client to access at least one DOD

15   program associated with said subscription access level;

16   a digital data decoder bi-directionally coupled to said databus;

17   a central processing unit (CPU) bi-directionally coupled to said databus, said CPU implementing

18   a STB control process controlling said memory, said first communications device and said digital

19   decoder, said STB control process operable to process digital data received at said first

20   communications device.

1   38.   A STB as recited in claim 37, wherein said memory includes transient random

2   access memory (RAM) and a persistent storage device, and said computer executable

3   instructions are stored on said persistent storage device.

1   39.   A STB as recited in claim 38, wherein said persistent storage device is a hard

2   disk.

1   40.   A STB as recited in claim 37, further comprising a hardware identification code

2   hidden with the STB hardware, wherein said computer executable instructions include

3   instructions for determining whether said client identification code is associated with said

4   hardware identification code, and when said client identification code is determined to be

5   associated with said hardware identification code enabling said STB to display an associated

6   DOD program.

1   41.   A STB as recited in claim 37, wherein said client has an account status and

2   wherein said digital broadcast data includes a warning level associated with said account status.

1   42.   A computer implemented method for controlling access to data-on-demand

2   (DOD) programs by a data receiving system such as a set-top-box to , said computer

3   implemented method comprising the act of:

4   transmitting to said data receiving system an information packet including a client

5   identifier and a subscription level code, wherein said data receiving system is operative

6   executable by said data receiving system, said anti-counterfeit software operable to determine

7   whether said data receiving device is counterfeit or authentic, said anti-counterfeit software

8   further operable to perform anti-counterfeit measures at said data receiving system.

1   43.   A method as recited in claim 41, wherein said account status is indicative of an

2   amount owed to a service provider and a last payment date.

1   44.   A data packet comprising:

2   at least one client data block including an associated client identification number

3   corresponding to a client; and

4   at least one subscription level data block including at least one associated

5   subscription level code indicating at least one subscription level associated with said client.

1   45.   A data packet as recited in claim 44, wherein said subscription level data block is

2   partitioned into a plurality of bits, wherein each said bit corresponds to an associated level of

3   service.

1   46.   A data packet as recited in claim 44, further comprising at least one warning level

2   data block including at least one warning level code indicating a warning level associated with

3   said client.

1   47.   A data packet as recited in claim 44, further comprising at least one service level

2   data block including at least one service level code indicating at least one service said client may

3   access.

1   48.   A method for controlling client access to DOD services comprising the acts of:

2   receiving at least one subscription data packet including at least one associated client

3   identification code, at least one associated subscription level code, and at least one associated

4   service level code; and

5   storing at least a portion of said at least one associated subscription level code in a

6   memory location;

7   storing at least a portion of said at least one associated service level code in a memory

8   location;

9   receiving at least one first service having at least one associated subscription level; and

10   wherein said at least one associated subscription level code corresponds to said at least

11   one associated subscription level, accessing at least a portion of said first service.

1   49.   A method as recited in claim 48, further comprising:

2   receiving at least one second service having at least one associated service level; and

3   wherein said at least one associated service level code corresponds to said at least one

4   associated service level, accessing at least a portion of said second service.

1   50.   A method as recited in claim 48, wherein said subscription data packet includes

2   an associated warning level code, displaying a warning message associated with said warning

3   level code.

1   51.   A method as recited in claim 48, wherein said at least one associated subscription

2   level corresponds to at plurality of said at least one associated subscription level codes.

1   52.   A method as recited in claim 48, further comprising the act of receiving an

2   additional subscription data packet including at least one superceding subscription level code and

3   said client identification code, wherein said at least one superceding subscription level code

4   enables said client to access additional services.

1   53.   A method as recited in claim 48, wherein said at least one client identification

2   code is accessible by an associated client, and wherein said at least one client identification code

3   enables said associated client to access said subscription level code.

1   54.   A method as recited in claim 50, including displaying at least a portion of said

2   first service such that at least a portion of said displayed service is obscured by said warning

3   message.

1   55.   A method as recited in claim 48, wherein said act of accessing said at least one

2 first service includes storing at least a portion of said first service to said memory location.

1   56.   A method as recited in claim 48, wherein said at least one associated subscription

2 level code is a binary number having a plurality of bits, each said bit being associated with at

3 least one corresponding DOD service.

1   57.   A method as recited in claim 48, wherein said at least one subscription level code

2 is indicative of at least one of a plurality of subscription levels of service.

1   58.   A method as recited in claim 49, wherein said act of accessing said at least one

2 second service includes storing at least a portion of said second service to said memory location.